

# Statistics Weekly

**Thursday, 10 June 1993**



*statistics*

## *The week in statistics ...*

- |                                                                                  |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No growth in retail trade in April                      | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Net foreign debt falls                                  | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March quarter road freight figure                       | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing census tells the full story of a bad year | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall in migrant numbers puts brake on population growth | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign trade in brief ...                              | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expected releases over the fortnight to 22 June         | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selected releases: 2 to 8 June                          | 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The latest ...<br>-- key national/State indicators      | 8 |



## No growth in retail trade in April

The trend estimate of turnover for April for retail and selected service establishments showed no growth over March 1993, following very weak growth of 0.1 per cent for each of the three previous months.

The grocery industry is showed moderate growth in the trend estimates with an average increase of 0.4 per cent over the three months ended April 1993. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs continued to improve and are now showing strong growth, averaging 1.1 per cent over the same period. Other food stores and clothing and fabric stores are in decline with the trend estimates showing an average decrease of 0.8 per cent for both industries over the last three months. Department and general stores are also in decline.

### RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in April 1993 (\$ million)	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended April 1993	12 months ended April 1993
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,450	0.4	0.4
Butchers	208	0.9	1.0
Other food stores	518	-0.8	-0.6
Total food group	3,176	0.2	0.3
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	981	1.1	0.2
Department and general stores	832	-0.3	0.1
Clothing and fabric stores	524	-0.8	-0.6
Electrical goods stores	416	-0.3	0.4
Pharmacies	374	1.9	1.4
Newsagents	249	-1.0	-0.1
Other industries	1,354	n.a.	n.a.
All industries	7,905	0.1	0.2

The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria showed the strongest growth in trend estimates over the past three months with moderate average increases of 0.5 and 0.4 per cent respectively. Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia showed weak growth. New South Wales showed zero growth while Tasmania declined.

### RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992								
December	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.2
1993								
January	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.6	0.1
February	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.1
March	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.3	0.5	0.1
April	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.4	0.4	0.0



## Net foreign debt falls

Repayments of foreign borrowings by both the public and private sectors was a key factor in an improvement in Australia's international investment position in the March quarter 1993.

Net foreign liabilities of Australian residents at 31 March 1993 totalled \$208,338 million, a decrease of \$3,266 million, or 1.5 per cent, on the position at the end of the December quarter 1992.

The decrease was made up of: net capital transactions (the balance on capital account in the balance of payments) which recorded an outflow of \$2,063 million during the quarter; exchange rate variations of -\$326 million and other changes of -\$877 million in the value of net foreign liabilities.

The main cause of the decrease was a lower level of foreign investment in Australia (down \$3,073 million) due to a fall in the level of foreign borrowing, down \$6,842 million, or 3.4 per cent, partly offset by increased equity holdings by non-residents in enterprises in Australia, up \$4,281 million (or 4%).

Of the total international investment position at 31 March, net foreign debt accounted for \$160,615 million (down 3.9%), net equity liabilities \$47,044 million (up 8.4%) and 'other investment' \$679 million.

Net investment income payable abroad in the March quarter was \$2,797 million, down 10.6 per cent on the amount payable in the December quarter.

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POSITION  
\$A billion

	Level at end of	
	December 1992	March 1993
Foreign investment in Australia		
Borrowing from abroad	202.2	195.4
Equity and other investment	115.1	118.9
Total	317.3	314.3
Australian investment abroad	105.7	105.9
Net international investment position		
Net foreign debt	167.1	160.6
Net equity and other liabilities	44.5	47.7
Total	211.6	208.3

Particular features of the March quarter result for foreign investment in Australia were:

- ☐ a net outflow of \$4,345 million in borrowing, reflecting repayments of borrowing by both the public and private sectors; and
- ☐ a net inflow of \$2,531 million in equity investment, most of which was injections of capital by non-residents into their Australian subsidiaries.

Australian investment abroad recorded a small increase of \$193 million compared with a decrease of \$1,185 million in the level for December quarter 1992. The notable features of Australian investment abroad in the quarter were:

- net inflows from net sales of reserve assets (\$1,116 million); and
- a net outflow of \$984 million in lending by the non-official sector, a turnaround of \$2,120 million from a net inflow of \$1,136 million in December quarter 1992.

For further information, order the publication *International Investment Position, Australia* (5306.0), or contact Michael Atkinson on (06) 252 6252.

## March quarter road freight figure

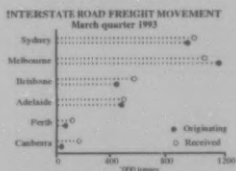
The tonnage of road freight moved by major operators fell by 9 per cent from the December 1992 quarter to 4,545,000 tonnes in the March 1993 quarter. This drop is in line with previous years, where the March quarter figures typically were lower than those reported in the immediately preceding December quarter.

The equivalent movement between the December 1991 quarter and the March 1992 quarter was a fall of 9.6 per cent to 3,143,000 tonnes.

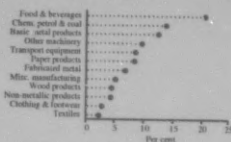
Readers should note that the increase in the amount of freight carried between the March 1992 quarter and the March 1993 quarter is the result of including additional 'in-scope' businesses after the September 1992 coverage survey, rather than necessarily more freight being carried by the businesses included before the coverage survey.

INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT  
FOR SELECTED MAJOR CENTRES  
MARCH QUARTER 1993

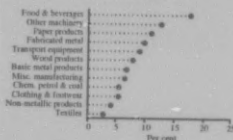
	Road freight originating		Road freight received	
	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter	'000 tonnes	Percentage change on previous quarter
Sydney	962	-14.7	1,006	-14.2
Melbourne	1,163	-7.1	1,070	-12.4
Geelong	37	0.8	83	-24.1
Brisbane	448	-12.9	576	-13.2
Adelaide	485	-6.6	496	-4.3
Perth	70	-18.0	123	-19.8
Tasmania	4	21.1	8	33.4
Darwin	8	1.1	29	14.6
Canberra	40	-2.9	182	7.1
Total	4,545	-9.0	4,545	-9.0



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TURNOVER,  
1991-92



PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF  
EMPLOYMENT, 1991-92



## Manufacturing census tells the full story of a bad year

For the first time since 1968-69, when the Australian Bureau of Statistics started collecting statistics on the present basis, manufacturing turnover at current prices fell in the 1991-92 year.

Preliminary results from the 1991-92 Census of Manufacturing Establishments show that turnover at current prices for Australia's manufacturing industry was \$168,839 million in 1991-92, a fall of \$3,105 million or 2 per cent from the turnover figure of \$171,944 million in 1990-91.

The industries that recorded the greatest falls in turnover in percentage terms over the previous year were transport equipment (including motor vehicles and parts production) down \$1,157 million (7%) to \$14,441 million; and fabricated metal products, down \$702 million (6%) to \$11,639 million.

States which recorded the largest falls in turnover in percentage terms were Tasmania down \$252 million (6%) to \$3,873 million and South Australia down \$648 million (4%) to \$15,387 million.

The industry subdivision with the largest contribution to turnover in 1991-92 was food, beverages and tobacco (20.6%). The smallest contributor to turnover was textiles (2.3%).

The results also showed that Australian manufacturing employment fell by 52,700 persons (5%) between June 1991 and June 1992 to 909,000 persons, continuing the decline which has been evident since June 1989. The latest 5 per cent decline follows falls of 7 and 6 per cent respectively in the two preceding years.

The industry that recorded the largest fall in employment in percentage terms over the previous year was clothing and footwear, down 5,500 persons (10%) to 50,100 persons.

States which recorded the largest falls in manufacturing employment in percentage terms over the previous year were South Australia, down 7,700 persons (8%) to 86,600 persons and New South Wales, down 21,600 persons (7%) to 309,000 persons.

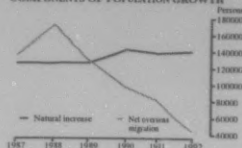
For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Industry, Australia, 1991-92, Preliminary* (8201.0), or contact Mark Wise on (02) 268 4541.

## Fall in migrant numbers puts brake on population growth

Overseas migration's contribution to Australia's population growth reached its lowest level for 16 years in 1992.

The net gain from overseas migration was 44,500, down 46 per cent on 1991. Within that overall decline there were 22,400 fewer settler arrivals (down 19%), a figure consistent with the reduced number of permanent visas being issued by Australia.

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



Another factor was a significant increase in the number of former settlers who returned to their country of birth for short-term visits, but did not return to Australia within a year of their departure.

Natural increase rose from 138,100 in 1991 to 140,300 in 1992, with live births increasing by 6,800 or 3 per cent, and deaths increasing by 4,600 or 4 per cent.

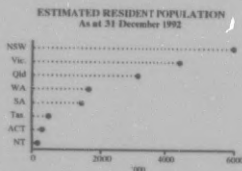
As a result of these changes, the national population growth rate in 1992 was 1.06 per cent, down from 1.25 per cent in 1991 and the lowest annual growth rate for 14 years. Natural increase contributed an unusually high 76 per cent of the total growth.

Within Australia, Victoria experienced a net interstate migration loss of 25,600 people, up 26 per cent on the previous year and the largest outflow from that State in more than 20 years.

Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania shared the lowest population growth rate of 0.5 per cent for the year. New South Wales and the Northern Territory recorded population growth of 0.9 per cent, while rates above the national average were recorded in Queensland (2.5%), the Australian Capital Territory (1.5%) and Western Australia (1.2%).

Queensland reinforced its recent record of high gains from interstate migration, acquiring a net gain of 43,000 people in 1992 compared with a gain of 31,900 in the previous year.

For further information, order the publication *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0), or contact Glen Heyen on (06) 252 7416.



## Foreign trade in brief ...

Merchandise imports for April 1993 were \$4,815 million, a decrease of \$751 million (13%) on March 1993, and up \$666 million (16%) on April 1992.

The commodities recording significant decreases on the previous month were: non-road transport equipment, down \$268 million (71%) to \$107 million; petroleum, down \$107 million (28%) to \$272 million; articles of apparel, down \$62 million (35%) to \$113 million; and office equipment (including computers), down \$55 million (13%) to \$357 million.

The largest increase was recorded for road vehicles, up \$24 million (5%) to \$551 million.

Australia's major commodity imports for April 1993 and their principal sources were: passenger motor vehicles (\$286 million): Japan (75%), Germany (13%) and Republic of Korea (4%); computers (\$192 million): USA (35%), Singapore (20%), Taiwan (18%) and Japan (14%); crude petroleum (\$160 million): United Arab Emirates (28%), Papua New Guinea (28%) and Indonesia (18%); and telecommunication equipment (\$139 million): Japan (33%), USA (19%) and France (17%).

Source: *Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Imports, April 1993* (5433.0).

## Inquiries

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10 June 1993

## Order from the following:

### Expected releases over the fortnight to 22 June

- 9 Building Activity, Australia: Dwelling Unit Commencements, March Quarter 1993, Preliminary (8750.0; \$10.70)
- 10 The Labour Force, Australia, May 1993, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.70)
- 15 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, April 1993 (5609.0; \$10.70)
- 16 Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, April 1993 (6407.0; \$10.70)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, April 1993 (6408.0; \$8.20)
- 18 Export Price Index, Australia, April 1993 (6405.0; \$8.20)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, April 1993 (6412.0; \$10.70)
- 22 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, April 1993 (6411.0; \$10.70)  
Import Price Index, Australia, April 1993 (6414.0; \$8.20)

### Selected releases: 2 to 8 June

#### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, 1991-92 (5204.0; \$26.00)  
Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 1991-92 (5220.0; \$21.40)  
Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, March Qtr 1993 (5434.0; \$19.40)

#### Labour statistics and prices

Labour Statistics in Brief, Aust., 1993 (6104.0; \$1.00)  
Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., May 1993 (6410.0; \$5.60)  
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., April 1993 (6415.0; \$10.70)

#### Agriculture

Agricultural Statistics, Tas., 1991-92 (7114.6; \$21.40)

#### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, March 1993 (8357.0; \$9.00)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, March 1993 (8359.0; \$10.70)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, March 1993 (8360.0; \$10.70)  
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, March 1993 (8362.0; \$9.00)  
Building Approvals, NSW, April 1993 (8731.1; \$10.70)  
Building Approvals, Vic., April 1993 (8731.2; \$10.70)  
Building Approvals, Qld, April 1993 (8731.3; \$10.70)  
Tourist Accommodation, NT, March Qtr 1993 (8635.7; \$12.00)

#### Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., April 1993 (9303.2; \$10.70)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, April 1993 (9303.5; \$7.60)  
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., April 1993 (9303.6; \$5.60)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National accounts</b>						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	n.a.	94,192	0.6	2.6
<b>International accounts</b>						
Balance on current account (b)	Apr. 93	\$m	-1,458	-1,719	12	-47
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	-25	-242	66	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	-311	-535	41	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	4,777	4,850	2	3
Merchandise imports	"	"	-4,802	-5,092	-7	17
Net foreign debt	31 Mar. 93	\$m	160,615	n.a.	-3.9	7.9
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	208,338	n.a.	-1.5	6.8
<b>Consumption and investment</b>						
Retail turnover at current prices	Apr. 93	\$m	7,905	8,071	0.7	1.5
New capital expenditure at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	"	4,944	5,551	-9.2	0.5
New motor vehicle registrations	Apr. 93	no.	40,449	45,714	1.4	5.2
<b>Production</b>						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	31,512	33,677	1.1	2.3
Dwelling unit approvals	Apr. 93	no.	14,155	15,557	6.9	10.6
Building approvals	"	\$m	1,958	2,102	6.6	17.3
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	Dec. qtr 92	"	6,391	6,086	2.0	6.1
<b>Prices</b>						
Consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1989-90 = 100.0	108.9	n.a.	0.9	1.2
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	Mar. 93	1988-89 = 100.0	114.3	n.a.	-0.4	2.4
Materials used in manufacturing industries	Mar. 93	1984-85 = 100.0	125.9	n.a.	-0.6	4.9
<b>Labour force and demography</b>						
Employed persons (d)	Apr. 93	'000	7,662.2	7,652.0	-0.1	-0.4
Participation rate † (d)	"	%	62.1	61.9	-0.8	-0.9
Unemployment rate † (d)	"	"	10.8	10.7	-0.2	0.2
Job vacancies	Feb. 93	'000	29.8	28.9	-4.4	8.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	"	hours	1.14	1.16	3.0	3.8
Estimated resident population at end of qtr	Dec. 92	million	17.6	n.a.	0.2	1.1
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	Mar. 93	'000	258	253	8.4	21.3
<b>Incomes</b>						
Company profits before income tax	Mar. qtr 93	\$m	3,850	4,887	23.9	36.9
Average weekly earnings, full-time adults, ordinary time	Feb. 93	\$	593.70	n.a.	1.2	0.8
<b>Financial markets</b>						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	Mar. 93	% per annum	5.35	n.a.	-0.45	-2.20
10-year Treasury bonds †	Dec. 92	"	7.80	n.a.	-0.20	-2.10
Exchange rate — \$US	Apr. 93	per SA	0.7118	n.a.	1	-7

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or a. increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 10 June 1993.  
NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Percentage change from same period previous year

## Key State indicators

Period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure*	Sept. qtr 92	-15.9	-15.2	2.9	-29.3	0.3	-18.8	n.a.	-10.6
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	Apr. 93	-1.3	3.0	5.7	-0.1	7.6	1.8	n.a.	7.6
New motor vehicle registrations†	Apr. 93	-0.6	14.8	5.5	1.5	4.6	20.2	20.3	-12.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	Apr. 93	1.3	-0.8	25.9	13.7	4.9	5.2	-26.6	13.3
Value of total building work done	Dec. qtr 92	0.7	-1.2	15.8	15.2	16.4	13.1	-9.5	-0.5
Employed persons*	Apr. 93	-3.3	-0.2	2.3	0.6	2.5	-1.2	-4.7	5.9
Capital city consumer price index	Mar. qtr 93	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	Feb. 93	-1.5	1.8	3.2	1.7	0.3	2.7	4.2	3.2
Population	Dec. 92	0.9	0.5	2.5	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	Sept. qtr 92	3.9	2.5	3.7	0.2	2.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.7

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

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